

ANGOLA

a. SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
I. TERRITORIAL SEA	Nov 75	Decree No. 159/75	20nm	U.S. does not recognize territorial sea claim in excess of 12nm. Operational assertions (overflights) made in 1985 and 1991.
II. ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jun 67	Decree Law 47,771		Pre-independence (Portugal) Portuguese legislation specifying straight baselines.
V. FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Nov 75	Decree No. 159/75	200nm	
	Feb 80	Decree No. 12-A/80	200nm	Fishing Zone. Included sedentary species of the continental shelf.
VIII. LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed, with a declaration reserving the right to interpret the Convention in the context of "Angolan sovereignty and territorial integrity."
	Dec 90			Ratified Convention.

b. ANGOLAN STRAIGHT BASELINES

1. LEGISLATION

Following are extracts from Portuguese Decree No. 47,771 of 27 June 1967:

Article 1

Along the continental European coast and the coast of the Provinces of Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique, the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea, established in Section I of Law No. 2130, shall be supplemented by the straight closing lines and baselines defined by the points whose geographic coordinates are contained in the following tables:

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(3) Straight closing lines and baselines supplementing the normal baseline in Angola:

Points	Latitude S.	Longitude E.
Ponta Spilimberta	08° 35' 00"	13° 22' 15"
Point of ilha da Luanda	08° 45' 34"	13° 15' 43"
Point on ilha da Luanda	08° 47' 02"	13° 13' 54"
Point S. of ponta do Mossulo	08° 52' 42"	13° 07' 42"
Giraul	15° 08' 02"	12° 06' 40"
Barreiras Brancas	15° 13' 00"	12° 04' 07"
Praia do Navio	16° 14' 09"	11° 48' 00"
Point S. of ponta da Marca	16° 32' 39"	11° 40' 20"

b. ANALYSIS

The following analysis of the Angolan straight baseline system is extracted from Limits In The Seas, No. 28, "Straight Baselines: Angola," 10 November 1970:

The decree creates straight baselines which, in effect, enclose Luanda harbour and its associated waters, the Bay (Baia de) Mossamedes, and the Bay (Baia dos) Tigros. The latter two bays are situated in southwestern Angola, near the South-West Africa frontier.

Segment	Length (nm)	Comments
Ponta Spilimberta - unnamed point on Luanda Island	12.75	The line closes the Bay of Bengo situated to the northeast of Luanda. Bengo does not meet the semi-circularity requirement of the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone to qualify as a bay even if the waters behind Luanda Island are included.
Unnamed point on Luanda Island - unnamed point south of Ponta Mussolo	8.25	The points chosen do not constitute the "natural closing points" of the bay; rather they extend beyond. However, the waters enclosed by the line would meet the criteria of a bay. It has not been determined if the two water bodies enclosed by the two segments could together be a legal bay. Luanda Island, however, cannot be said to fringe the coast.
Giraul - Barreiras Brancas	5.5	The southern point of this bay-closing line is beyond the natural closing point of the bay. It is a legal bay.
Praia do Navio - unnamed point south of Ponta da Marca	20.3	The enclosed Baia dos Tigres is a geographical and legal bay although the "natural entrance points" have not been utilized by the closing line. More logical selections would extend the line from Ponta da Marca eastward to the opposite shore. All of this shore north of the latter point faces on the Atlantic rather than the bay.

The four shore segments created by the decree total only 46.8 nautical miles in length. The total natural coast line of Angola, including Cabinda, is greater than 800 nautical miles. Relatively speaking, the baselines represent a very small portion of the coast, closing off natural indentations on an otherwise featureless shoreline.